

MARVEL

62

WAID  
WIERINGO  
KESEL

# FANTASTIC FOUR

" $\int \epsilon \pi t' \Sigma \Pi +$ "  
PART 1 of 3





# THE FANTASTIC FOUR

**1** A team—and a family—of adventurers, explorers and imaginauts, the Fantastic Four live lives both ordinary—and extraordinary.

As of today:

**2** In order to cure him once and for all of his terminal irresponsibility, Sue put Johnny in charge of the financial operations of FF, Inc., the team's licensing and revenue corporation. Reed immediately scanned Sue's brain for signs of alien manipulation.

**3** Johnny, however, knows that his big sister is all too sane. Cruel, but sane. Daily, he struggles to stay afloat in a sea of numbers and resists the constant urge to flame the balance sheets to ash in a fit of cathartic glee.

**4** Meanwhile, Reed is troubled by a sudden and mysterious attack on his children Franklin and Val, one that evaporated as quickly as it struck yet left no signature. Reed would describe it to Sue as "sorcerous" if he could comfortably wrap his lips around that word....



STAN LEE PRESENTS  
**"S'entt'ΣII+"**



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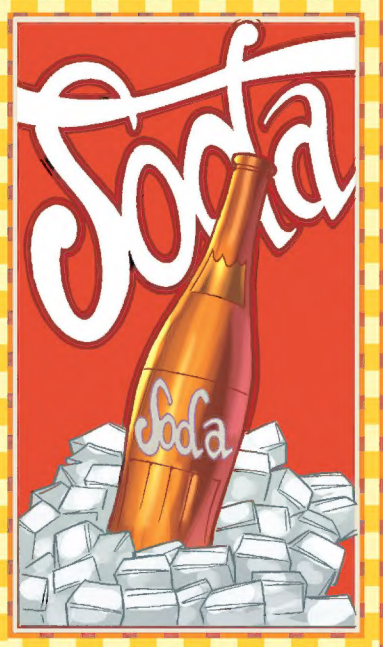
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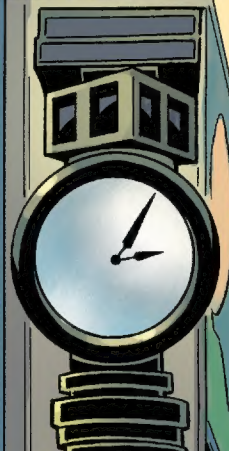
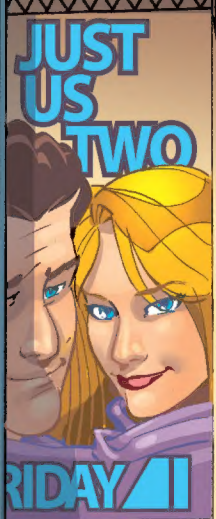
STAN LEE & JACK KIRBY  
the prime equation

**PART**  
**1 of 3**





PLAY OF THE YEAR  
THE MOST INCREDIBLE



PALACE

Incredible.



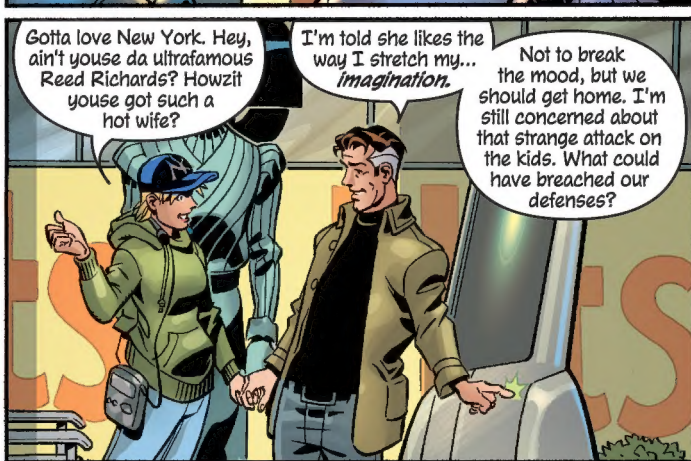
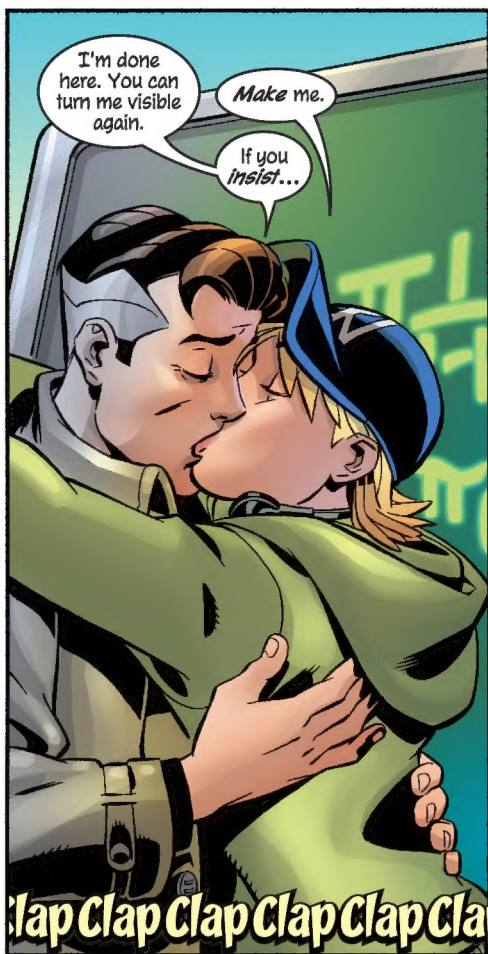
BEAU  
EM  
NOT















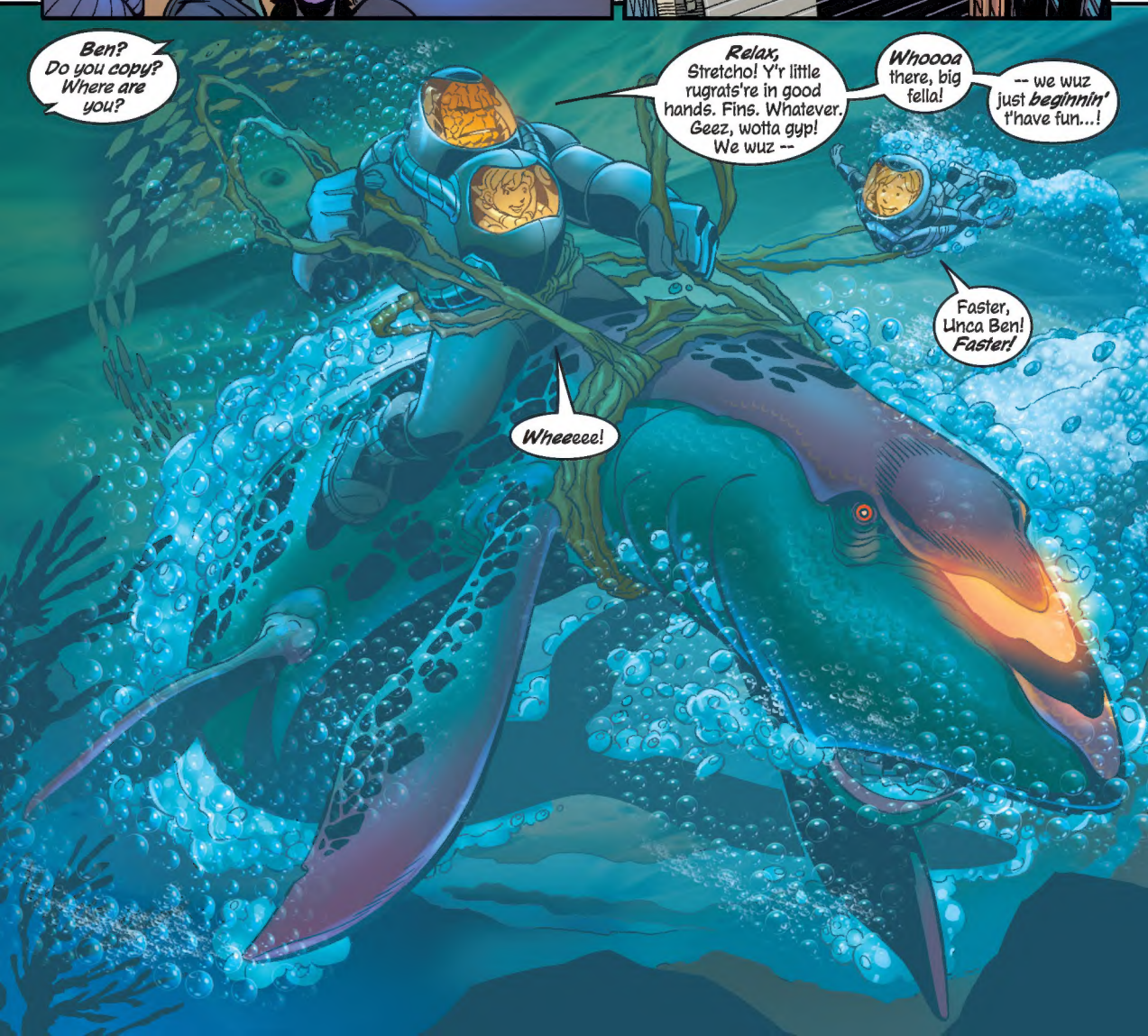
Reed,  
you don't  
think --

No, sometimes  
*I don't*. I should  
have considered that,  
given our altered genetics,  
she'd stand the same  
chance as Franklin of  
inheriting...  
*something!*



Just  
pray we learn  
otherwise.

Ben! Ben,  
can you read me?  
I need you and the  
children to meet me  
in the lab  
*immediately!*



Ben?  
Do you copy?  
Where are  
you?

Relax,  
Stretcho! Y'r little  
rugrats're in good  
hands. Fins. Whatever.  
Geez, wotia gyp!  
We wuz --

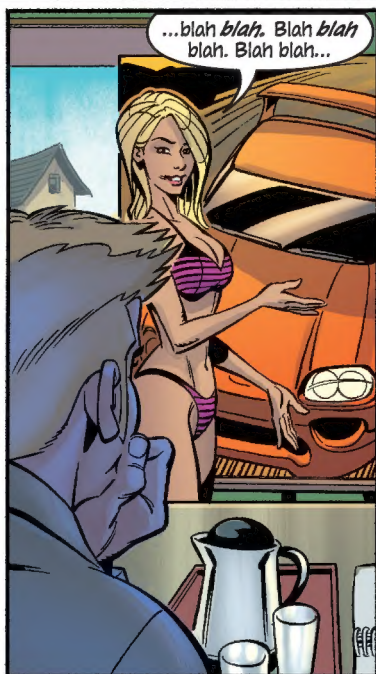
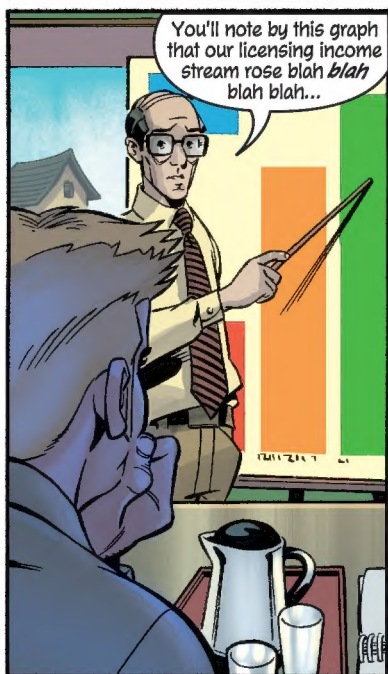
Whoaaa  
there, big  
fella!

-- we wuz  
just *beginnin'*  
t'have fun...!

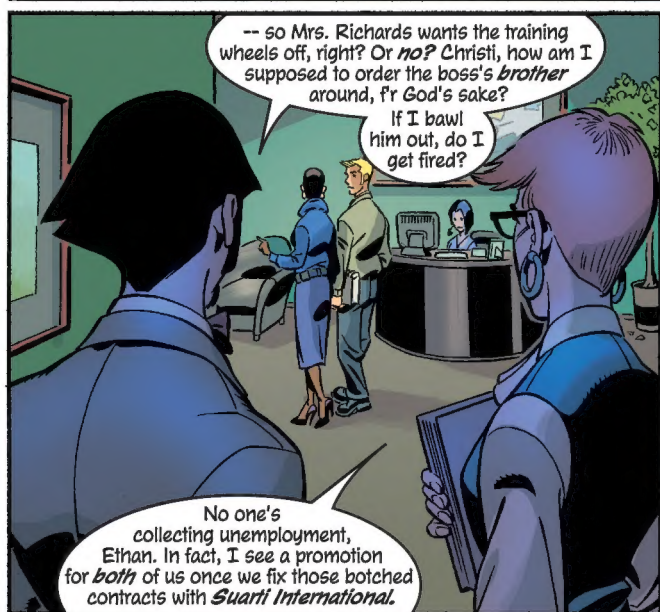
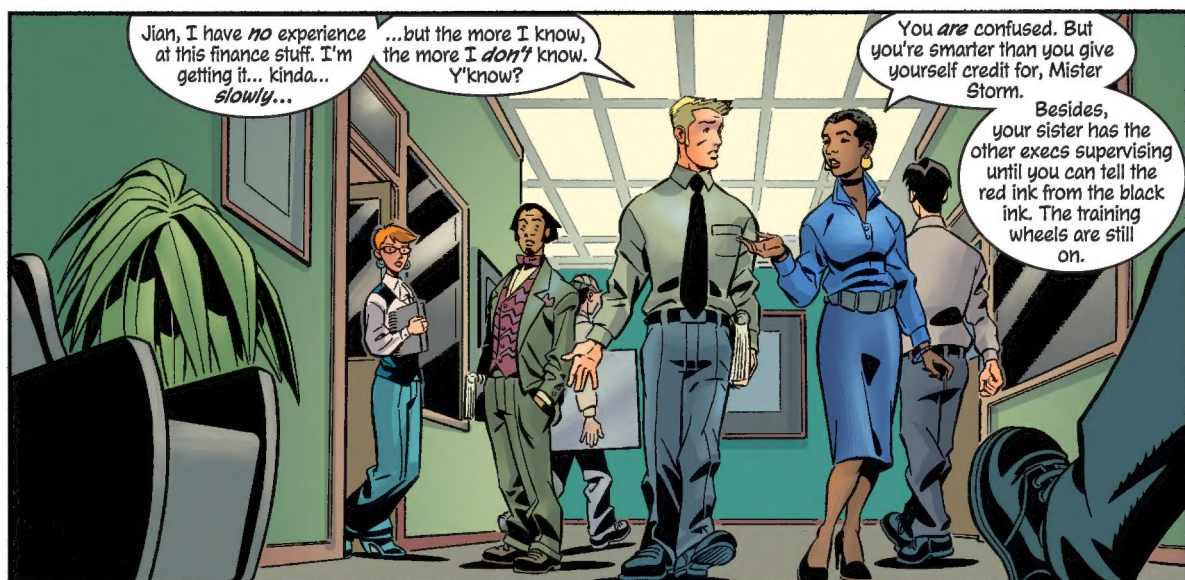
Faster,  
Unca Ben!  
Faster!

Wheeee!

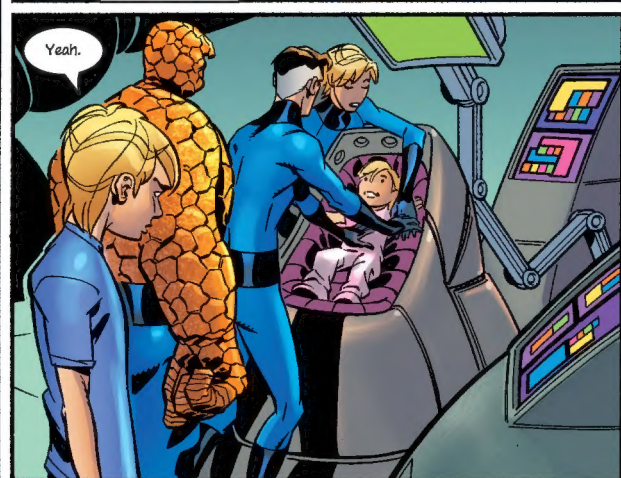
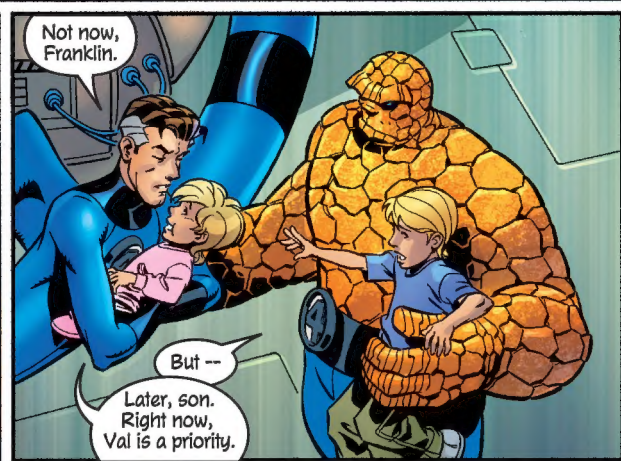








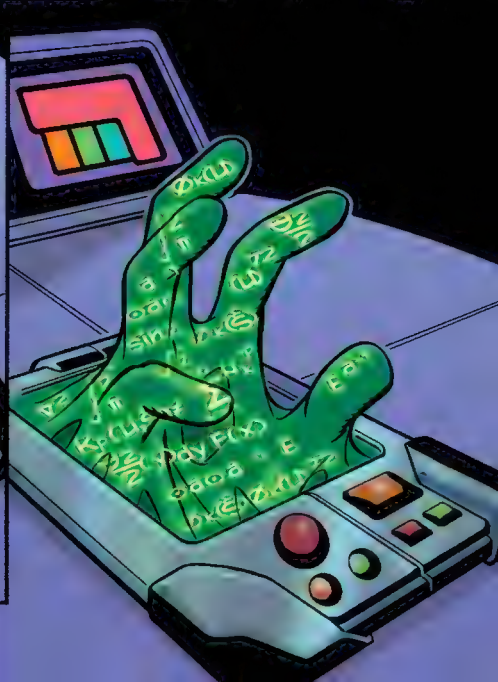
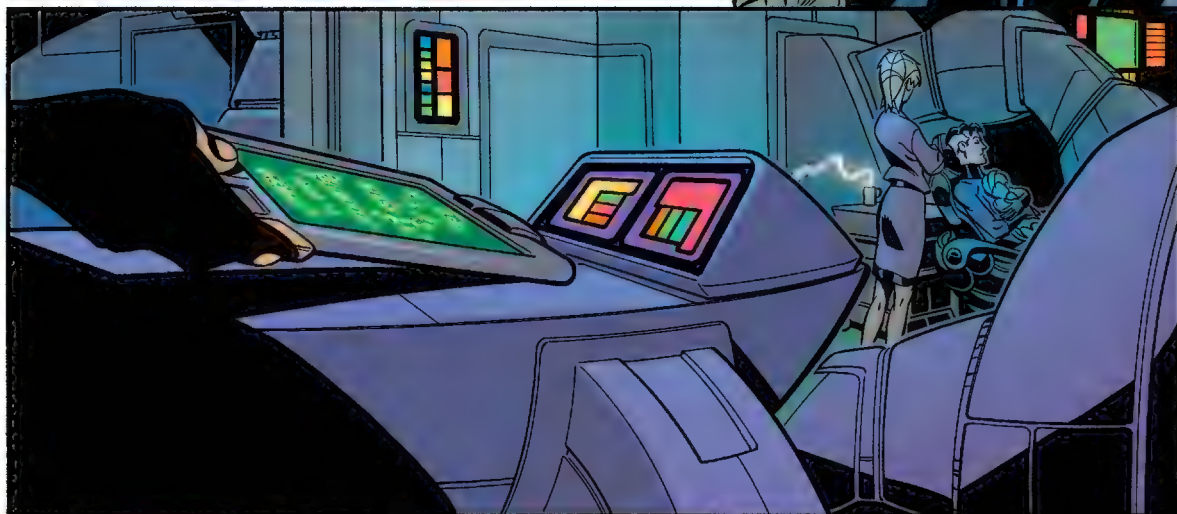
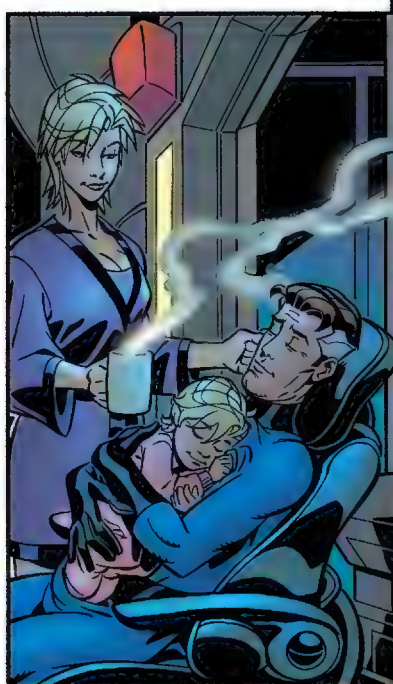




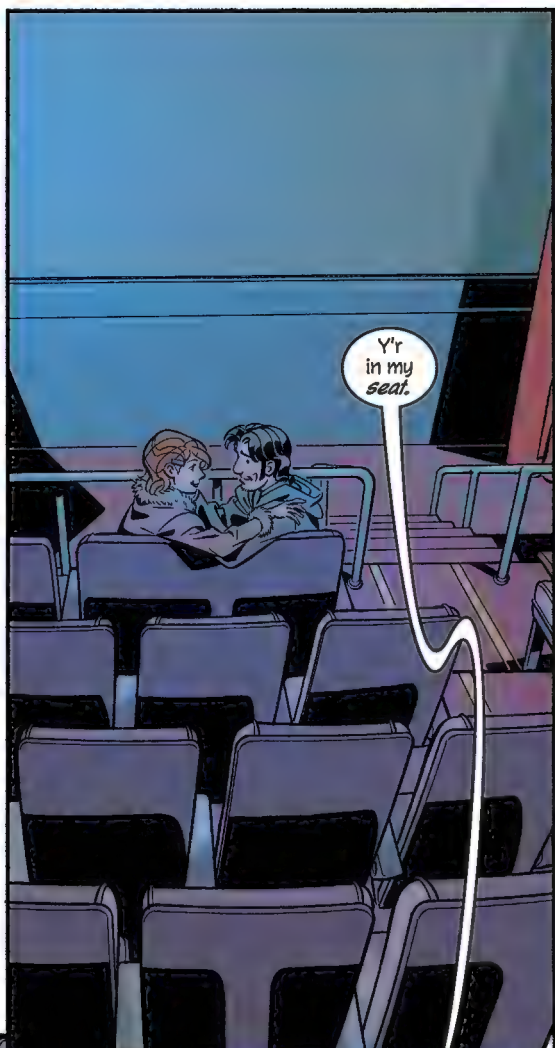




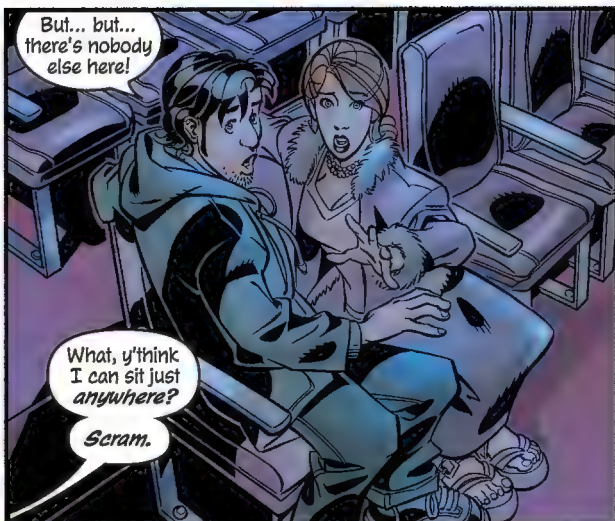








Y'r  
in my  
seat.



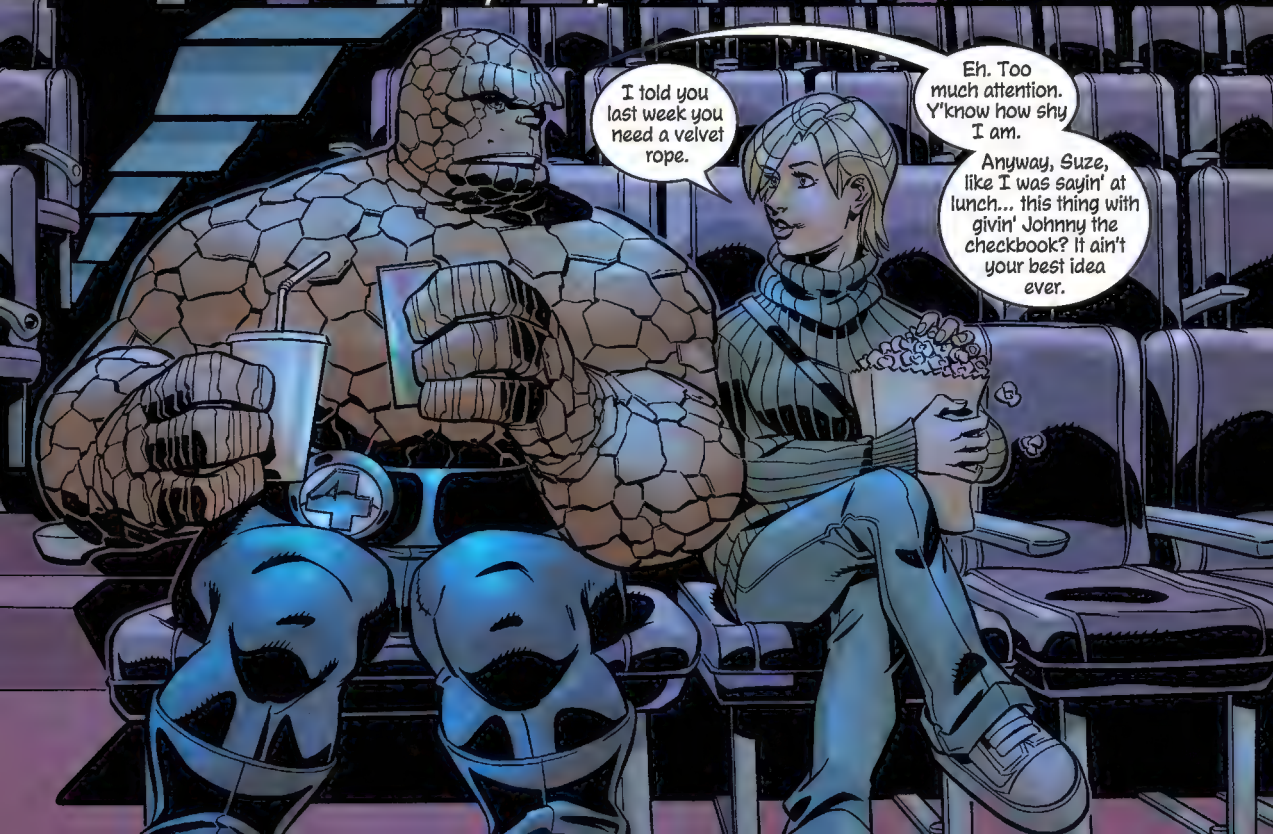
But... but...  
there's nobody  
else here!

What, y'think  
I can sit just  
anywhere?

Scram.



And  
learn t'  
read.

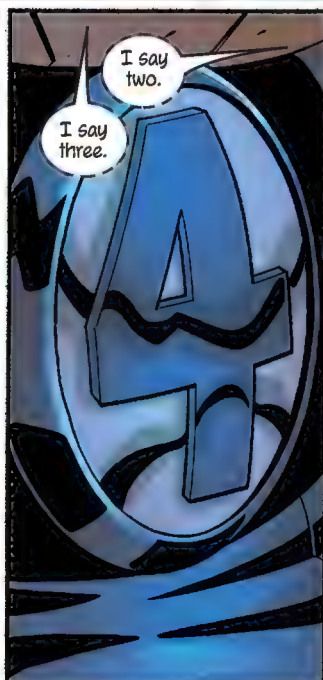
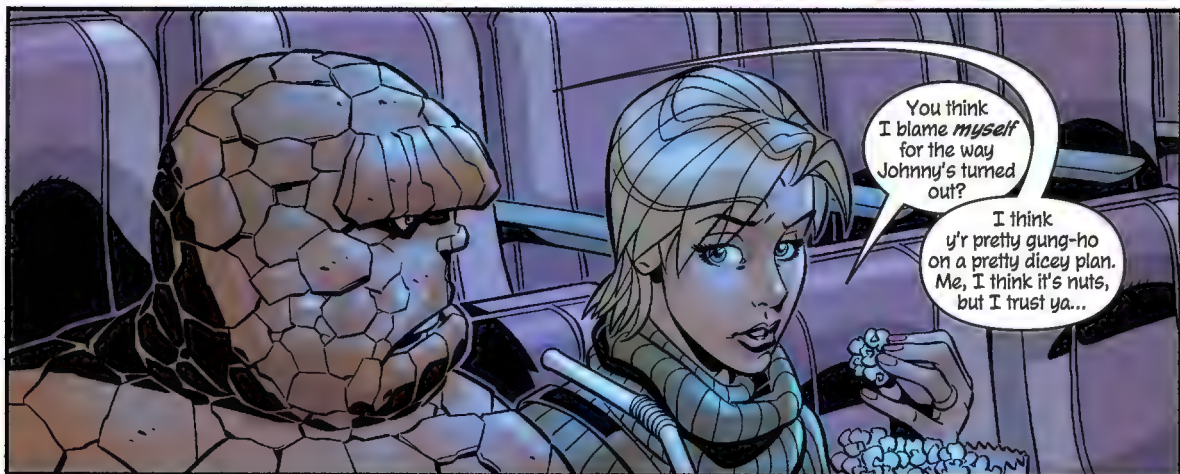
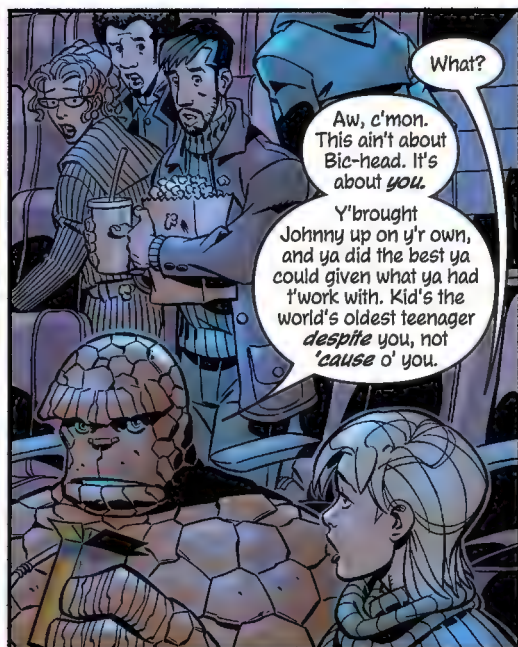
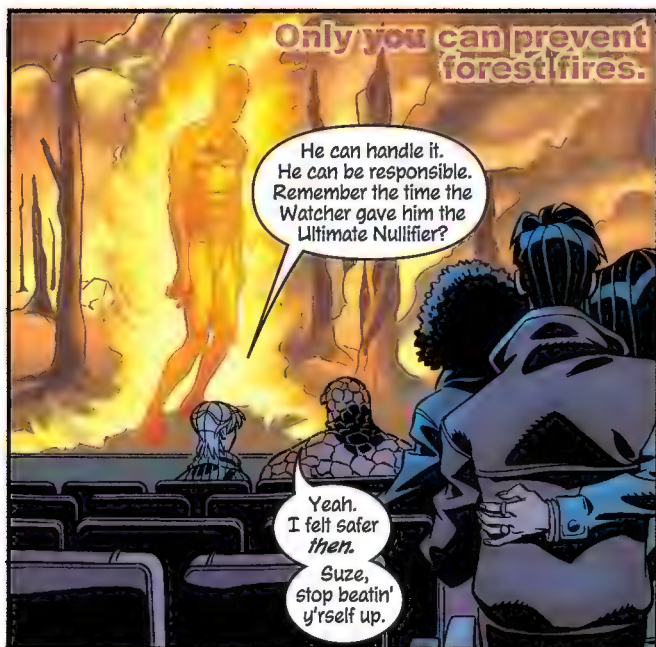


I told you  
last week you  
need a velvet  
rope.

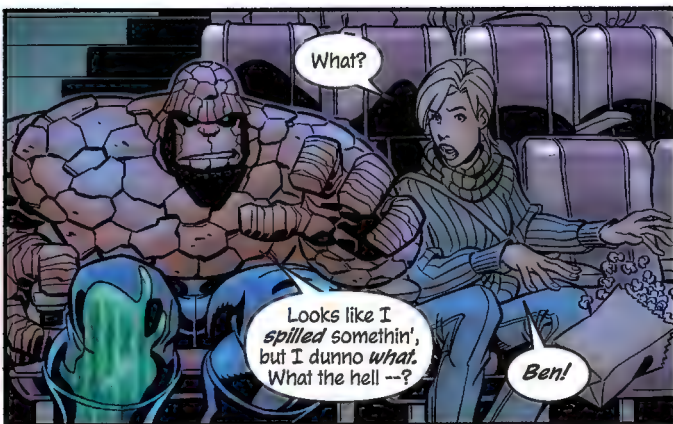
Eh. Too  
much attention.  
Y'know how shy  
I am.

Anyway, Suze,  
like I was sayin' at  
lunch... this thing with  
givin' Johnny the  
checkbook? It ain't  
your best idea  
ever.













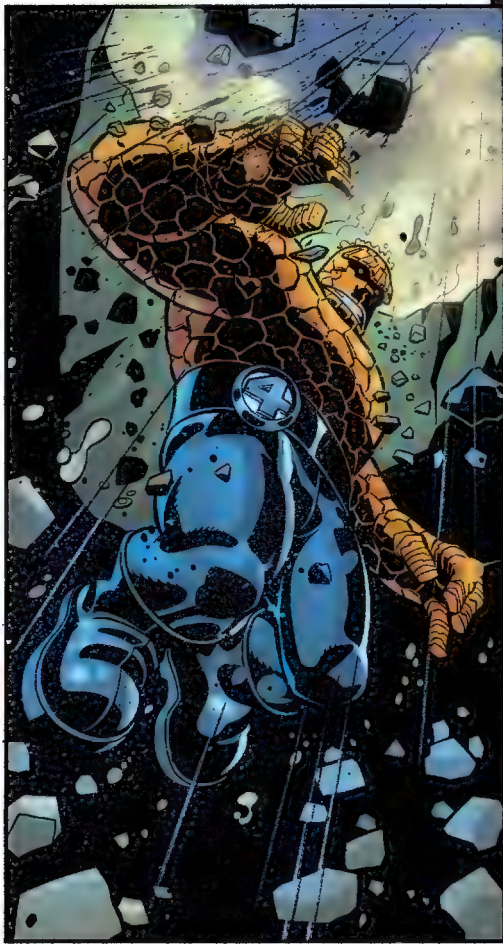




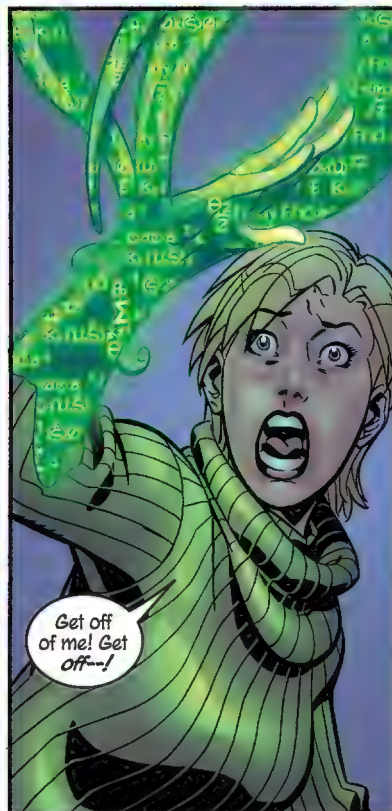
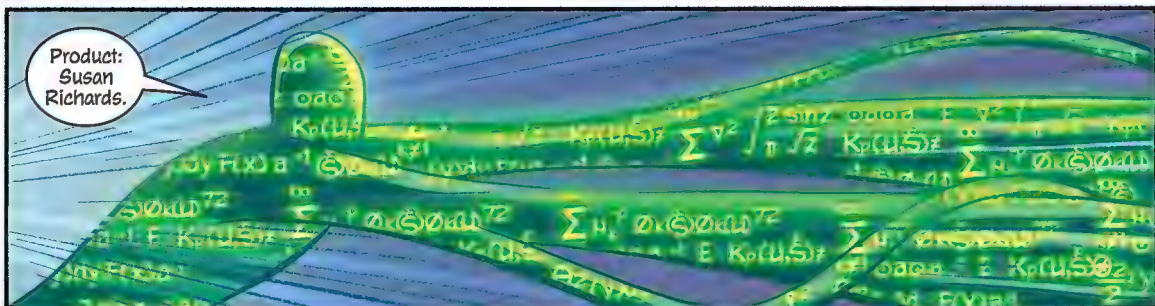
















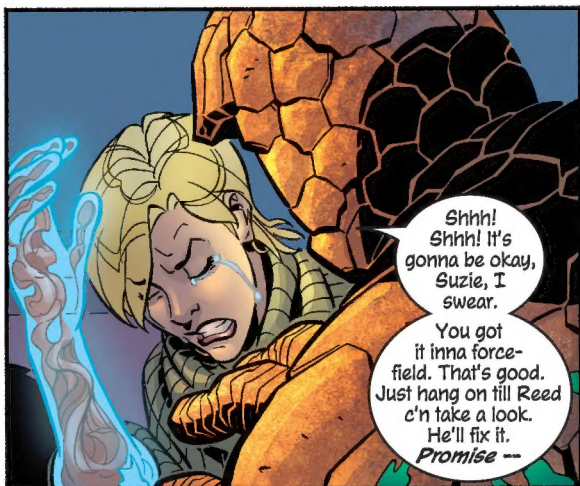




That'll  
buy us a sec.  
Suzie, what  
happened?

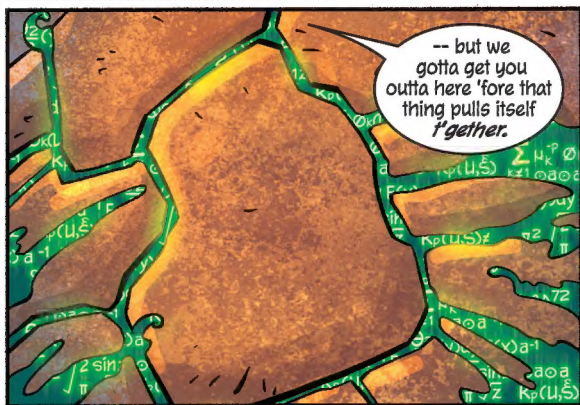
My huh-hand...  
it t-ried to take my  
h-hand...

Oh, God, it  
hurts...!



Shhh!  
Shhh! It's  
gonna be okay,  
Suzie, I  
swear.

You got  
it inna force-  
field. That's good.  
Just hang on till Reed  
c'n take a look.  
He'll fix it.  
**Promise --**



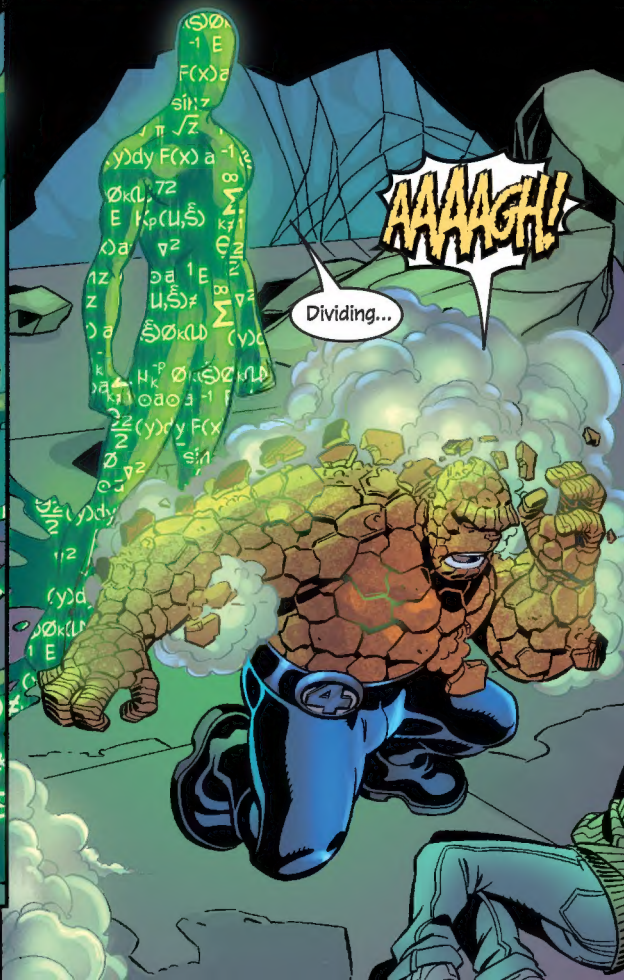
-- but we  
gotta get you  
outta here 'fore that  
thing pulls itself  
t'gether.



Aw, no.

Product:  
Benjamin  
Grimm.

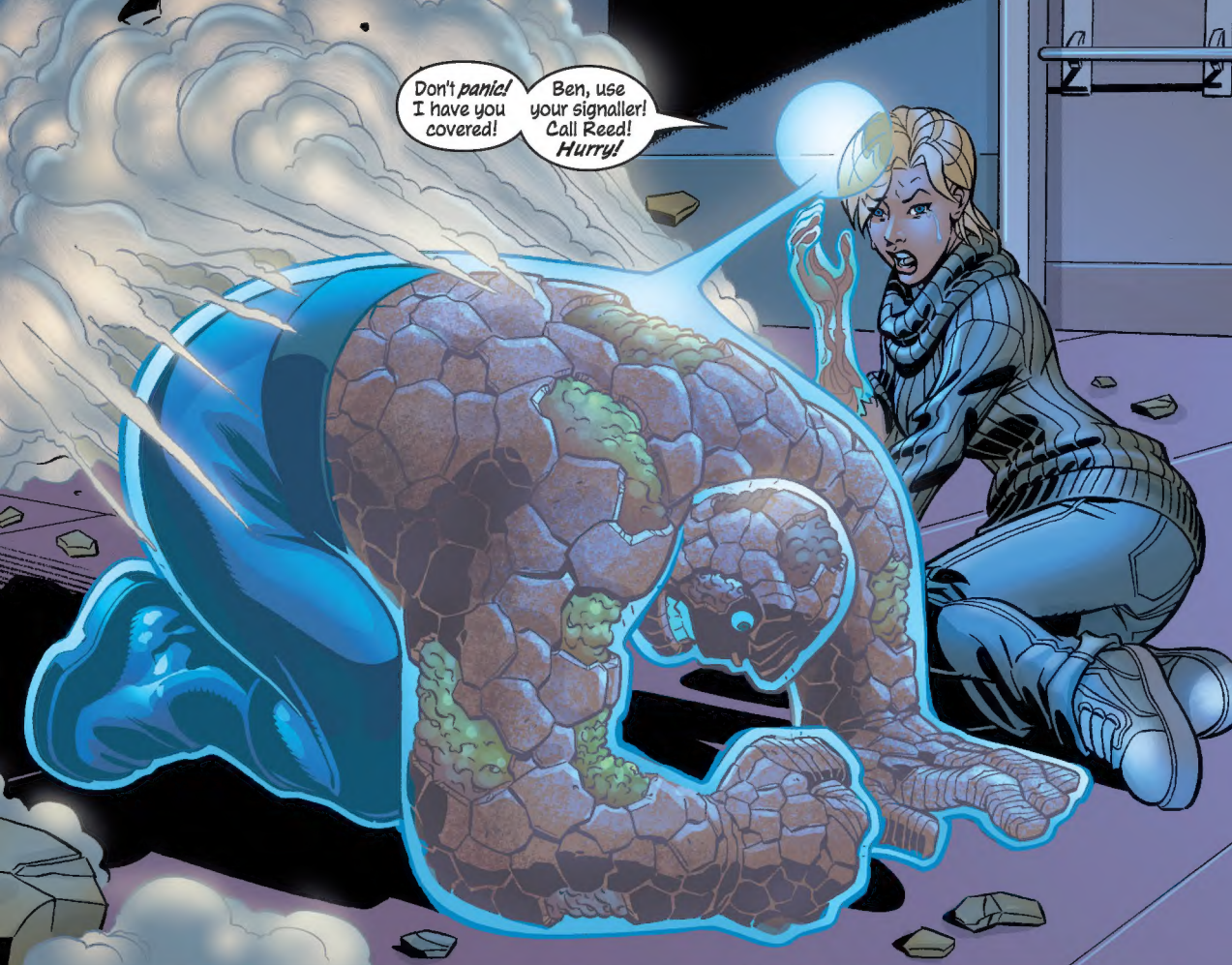
Factors:  
oxygen, silicate,  
carbon,  
hydrogen.



**AAAAAGH!!**

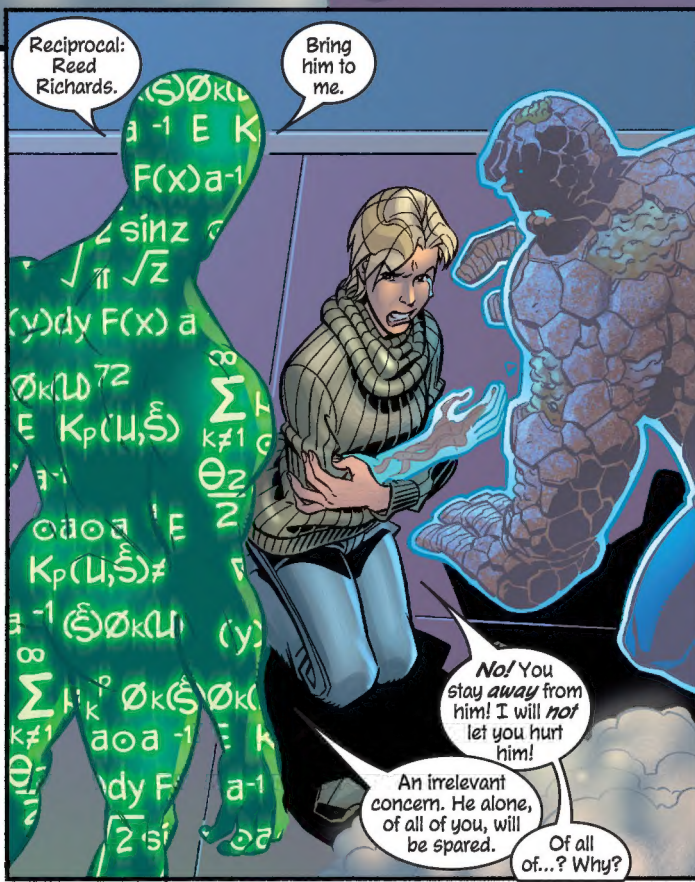
Dividing...





Don't panic!  
I have you  
covered!

Ben, use  
your signaller!  
Call Reed!  
Hurry!



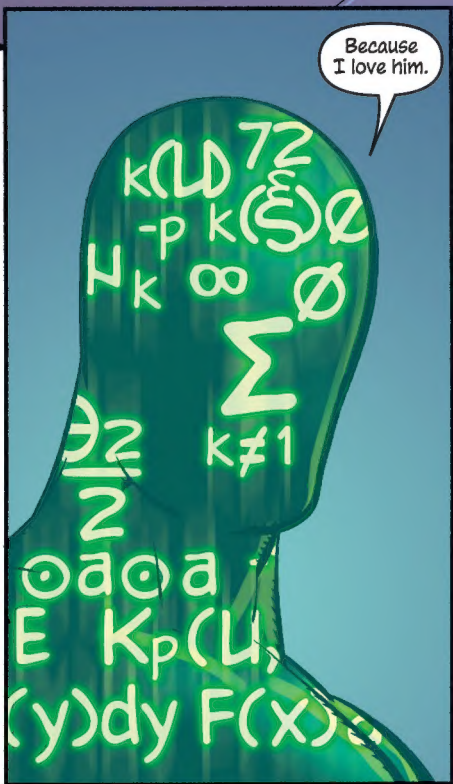
Reciprocal:  
Reed  
Richards.

Bring  
him to  
me.

No! You  
stay away  
from  
him! I will *not*  
let you hurt  
him!

An irrelevant  
concern. He alone,  
of all of you, will  
be spared.

Of all  
of...? Why?



Because  
I love him.

To be continued...



# 4 THOUGHTS

Hey there, Fantastic Fans!

Welcome back to *4-Thoughts*—the official forum for you, our beloved readers, to share your thoughts, questions and criticisms on all things FF! That's right, here at Marvel, we CARE about what you have to say!

The letters have been pouring in on FF #60, our big 9-cent issue...and you've all had quite a mouthful to say! So enough chatter from me...let's hear what all of you thought!

Hi, Marc,

Just had to send off a quick note about FANTASTIC FOUR #489 (sorry that's the purist in me), the 9-cent issue. FANTASTIC! Only looking at the artwork and starting the story, I can tell it is going to be an amazing issue. Which makes me thrilled to tell you my next point.

I was so sure that this issue was going to be great that I ordered 600 copies to include in the New York City Comic Book Museum's educational Curriculum COMICS—Challenging Objective Minds: an Instructional Comicbook Series! Midtown Comics in Manhattan ended up donating them to us which was terrific of them. These books are going to go out to about thirty to forty school systems around the country (free of charge) as part of our package designed to teach kids about comics, and more importantly about reading and writing. FF #489 will provide a great opportunity for these school kids to develop a love of comic books.

Since I have picked it up on the stands, I have purchased another 50 copies to send off to Gilda's Club, a center for children and adults dealing with cancer. The club provides an escape from the outside world for these kids, and what better way for them to forget their problems than by reading the FANTASTIC FOUR!

I look forward to the entire run of Waid, Wieringo and Kesel. And if I have brought in 650 more readers, all the better!

David Gabriel  
New York City Comic Book Museum

Thank you, David—not only for your kind words, but for going above and beyond to bring the love of comics to so many people out there. From your work at the NYC Comic Book Museum to your support of programs like Gilda's Club, you truly embody the spirit that we hoped FF #60's low price tag would inspire. We may very well gain 650 new readers from your efforts...but we're absolutely thrilled to have just ONE like you!

Thanks to all of you out there who used FF #60 as an opportunity to share the love of comics—and the FANTASTIC FOUR—with friends, family and more!

Dear FANTASTIC FOUR,  
I LOVE IT!!!

Mssrs. Waid and Wieringo and Kesel outdid

themselves with this one. They should be among Stan Lee, Jack Kirby or even John Byrne as those who bring the FF to new heights of greatness. I especially loved the logo. Kudos to Mr. Cichowski for designing it. All in all, I have a good feeling about this title.

Ah, yes. This issue's story: I was amazed (but not surprised, mind you) that Reed would still harbor some degree of guilt about the disastrous flight that turned them all into what they are. That he would seek to make himself and the others celebrities in order for them to avoid being labeled as "lab specimens" seems rather poignant in a rather odd way.

Well, I can't wait for the next issue!

Rod Gonzalez  
(via e-mail)

"Not surprised," Rod? Then I guess that "amazed" will just have to do! Hopefully this issue left you not only "surprised" and "amazed," but maybe even a bit "blown away" as well!

Oh, and you're one of many who loved the brand new FF logo! Of course, there were plenty of people on the other side of that debate as well...

*4-Thoughts,*

Love the new direction and creative team, but absolutely hate the logo...bring back the old one!

Craig McKenney  
Seattle, WA

Seems like the jury is still out on the new logo. Craig, some folks love it, others hate it. But I can tell you for sure that our new emblem is going to be around for a while...so hopefully it'll grow on you and all the others out there who didn't quite experience love at first sight!

Fantastic Ones,

It's a beautiful thing when a book does its job as well as FANTASTIC FOUR #60!

Indeed, the issue was so successful in acquainting readers new and old with these classic characters, Mark Waid and Mike Wieringo should have called this "primo-primer FANTASTIC FOUR 101!"

A family first, explorers second, and super heroes "...only when they have to be," is as perfect an approach to these characters as can be—and a prime reason why FANTASTIC FOUR has remained a core concept of comics for over FOUR (how fitting!) decades.

Based on this inaugural effort, the "Double W" team has not only brought me back to the "Fantastic Fold," but has assured my return for some time to come!

I spent nine cents, and just gave you "two cents" more.

Total Investment: Eleven Cents.

Total Enjoyment for this Returning Reader: (as they say on TV) Priceless!

Joe Torcivia  
Westbury, NY

Your Comments: Worth a Million!

Thanks for reading and enjoying, Joe. Judging by the influx of positive mail we've gotten so far, you're in the vast majority...

...Of course, as Mom always told me, you can't please all of the people all of the time...

Marc, Mark and Mike,

FF #60 left me disappointed. I detest the look of oversized feet, and the Thing doesn't look right. He's not supposed to have teeth, Mike! Go back and look at Byrne's model sheet for him for tips on how to get him

right. And his costume just looks plain stupid.

I couldn't tell much about how Mark is going to handle the FF, except he's apparently writing them as if they've just gotten their powers; the Torch talks like he's still a teenager. HE'S BEEN THE TORCH FOR MORE THAN TEN YEARS, Mark. Reed's 40th birthday was way back under Byrne's tenure circa FF #260.

But despite my concerns, I'll be sticking around. I was VERY impressed (and entertained) by Mark's run on JLA.

Jeff Deischer  
(via e-mail)

Sorry to hear that Mike's art and Mark's characterizations aren't working for you yet, Jeff...but we definitely appreciate you sticking around for a while and giving us a chance. I don't think you'll be disappointed that you did!

Be sure to let us know what you think as the series goes on!

And just so you know, we checked Jack Kirby's design, and Ol' Blue Eyes does indeed sport a healthy set of chompers! So I guess it's just a matter of taste! No wait...that'd be his tongue...

*4-Thoughts,*

When I went to the bookstore this evening I saw that FANTASTIC FOUR was on the stands. I grabbed a copy and headed for the checkout. But when the book was rung up, I was charged the full \$2.25 cover price! I asked if it was nine cents, but they said no. What gives?! I thought this book was supposed to be one of the cheapest in history.

Jeremy Oberg  
(via e-mail)

You're not the only one confused by this unfortunate pricing situation, Jeremy. But the least I can do is try to explain what happened...

It seems our newsstand distributor refused to carry FF #60 at its designated 9-cent price tag, since (due to shipping and distribution costs) it just wouldn't have been profitable for them to get the issue out to stores. They requested that FF #60 be released at its regular monthly price (\$2.25) or they would not carry the issue at all—which means that neither would any of the stores that they supply (such as Waldenbooks, Borders, local newsstands and any store that isn't a "comic book specialty shop").

Rather than deprive a large number of potential readers of the opportunity to get their hands on FF #60, we made the tough, last-minute decision to release the newsstand edition at the usual monthly price of \$2.25, in order to make sure that it reached as many sales outlets as possible.

But look on the bright side: although it may have cost you a bit more, think of it as an investment! Remember, there were a whole heck-of-a-lot more copies of the 9-cent version printed...so you may very well have a "rare variant edition" in your hands!

That's all the room we have for this month, gang...but be sure to be here next month for even more of your thoughts on FF #60! See you then!

Marc Sumerak  
Junior Imaginaut

## NEXT ISSUE:

WHAT THE HECK IS THAT THING? WHY IS IT IN LOVE WITH REED? AND WHAT WILL IT DO TO MAKE SURE THAT LOVE IS RECIPROCATED???

FIND OUT IN "SENTIENT" PART 2!

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ASSISTANT EDITORS

TOM BREVOORT  
EDITOR

JOE QUESADA  
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# 4

Cover colored by Richard Isanove

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